

Message Text

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4979

S E C R E T USNATO 1818

EXDIS

E.O. LL652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: LUNS' VIEWS ON NATO DECLARATION

1. SYG LUNS SPOKE TO ME PRIVATELY AFTER PERMREPS LUNCH APRIL 2 ABOUT THE NATO DECLARATION. HE SAID IT WAS BECOMING THE IMPRESSION OF THE ALLIES THAT THE U.S. HAD DECIDED TO ABANDON THE NATO DECLARATION. I SAID THAT THE U.S. POSITION WAS AS STATED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER TO VON STADEN.

2. LUNS SAID EMPHATICALLY, HOWEVER, THAT THE U.S. SHOULD PROVIDE SOME LEADERSHIP IN NATO AS TO THE NATO DECLARATION. TALKING TO VON STADEN AND EC NINE IS NOT ENOUGH. FURTHER, IT WOULD BE TRAUMATIC FOR THE ALLIANCE IF THE U.S. WERE SEEN TO HAVE ABANDONED THE DECLARATION. BETTER TO PROCEED IN NATO EVEN IF FRANCE ULTIMATELY REJECTS IT ON CONSULTATION ISSUE, THEN AT LEAST IT WILL BE FRANCE, NOT THE U.S. THAT KILLED IT. HOWEVER, HE ADDED, THE OTHER ALLIES WOULD WORK WITH THE U.S. TO COMPLETE THE DECLARATION IN A SUITABLE WAY AND HE DID NOT THINK FRANCE WOULD HAVE THE NERVE TO BLOCK THE DECLARATION IN THE LAST ANALYSIS. HE SAID WE SHOULD NOT UNDERRATE THE SUPPORT WE WILL RECEIVE FROM THE OTHER ALLIES AND SHOULD NOT LET IT DROP IN NATO SIMPLY FOR FEAR FRANCE MIGHT SAY NO TO BEEFING UP THE CONSULTATION SECTION.

3. I ASKED ABOUT THE EFFECT ON PUBLIC AND THUS CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES TOWARD FRANCE AND EUROPE, IF THAT COURSE WERE FOLLOWED, AND THUS THE INDIRECT EFFECT ON THE ALLIANCE IF FRANCE BLOCKED THE DECLARATION. LUNS SAID THE DEMORALIZING EFFECT ON THE ALLIANCE

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WOULD BE GREATER IF THE ALLIES THOUGHT THE U.S. HAD ABANDONED THE DECLARATION, THAN IF FRANCE DID ACTUALLY BLOCK IT, WHICH HE DID NOT BELIEVE THEY ULTIMATELY WOULD DO.

4. LUNS SAID U.S. LEADERSHIP IS NEEDED AND HE HOPED I COULD
COMMUNICATE THIS TO SECRETARY KISSINGER. LUNS SAID HE WOULD
BE WILLING TO GO TO THE U.S. TO ARGUE FOR U.S. LEADERSHIP TO
COMPLETE THE NATO DECLARATION IF THAT WOULD BE DESIRABLE.
REQUEST GUIDANCE
RUMSFELD

SECRET

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